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MARYLAND

DEVOTED TO
AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE,



FARMER:

LIVE STOCK
and RURAL ECONOMY.

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No. 5.

A Good Rotation for a Maryland or Virginia Farm.

The farm to be divided into three main fields, or shifts, besides the orchards and truck patches. Have the fields about equal in size, and, if the shape of the farm will admit, nearly square in form. Number the fields 1, 2 and 3, and for the first, pursue the following rotation :

First year, corn, admitting field peas or beans between the rows, if desirable. The corn to have 200 pounds of nitrate or other good corn fertilizer per acre. The beans or peas, although a minor crop, will be so much extra, and will go far to pay the cost of cultivating the corn. Second year, oats in the spring, or with some extra labor, the same fall the corn comes off. Oats to have 200 pounds of phosphate and 100 pounds of plaster broadcast to the acre, and harrowed. Oats off in midsummer, and followed by wheat on the oat stubble in the fall, wheat to have 400 pounds of lime broadcast per acre. Clover sowed on wheat spring of third year, and pastured in fall after wheat harvest. In December the sod to be broken with double team, preparatory for corn again the fourth year, which will be the first again in the second period of rotation.

Second field, first year, tobacco, with 200 pounds of nitrate or good tobacco fertilizer per acre. Same fall sow rye to be turned

down in the following spring. The next year put the field in corn, with beans or peas between the rows, if wanted. Land to be plowed deeply with double plow in December, and have an application of 400 pounds of lime and 50 loads of good forest mould per acre, broadcast, on plowed surface to take the winter rains and freezes. Third year, land in oats, followed by drilled corn for fodder in July, or by field peas broadcast, to be cut and cured in haulm, as winter feed for cattle and sheep. Same land to be plowed again in fall, preparatory to tobacco again the fourth year. Fifty loads of stable or barnyard manure would now be an excellent dose for the coming tobacco crop.

Third field, first year, wheat previous fall, with clover in the spring, clover to be pastured after the wheat harvest, and sod plowed under in December. Second year tobacco, with fertilizer. The same fall land plowed deeply, and treated to 50 loads of stock-pen manure or forest mould, to lie and weather all winter. Third year, put this field in corn, with peas or beans, as previously stated for corn. Wheat will follow naturally after corn on this field, and thus the three years' course be completed for the three fields.

And now let us look at this system as a whole. It will be observed that our staple crops are corn, tobacco and wheat, and these, for a large part of Maryland and

Virginia, are the crops most relied upon. Oats is also a prominent crop in the system, displacing wheat entirely the second year, and peas, beans, and rye are useful subsidiary crops. Other minor crops will be provided for on the part of the farm set apart for trucks.

It will be seen that this is not an expensive system as regards fertilizers, and yet enough of these are used to insure profitable crops. The quantity may be increased to suit the views or means of the farmer. Another prominent feature of this plan is, the fall plowing for the leading crops. Nearly all the heavy plowing is to be done in the fall season. Without entering upon the reason for this now, suffice it to say that the subject itself is gaining prominence and many advocates in almost all parts of the country, and before long none but the most shiftless of farmers will leave the heavy plowing for the spring season.

The above rotation gives the farmer three staple crops each year. It also provides for an ample stock of forage. Of course it has its defects, and some will prefer to substitute other crops for some named. Where tobacco is not grown, oats, peanuts, or barley may take its place.—B. W. J.

Farm Work for May.

The close attention and unvaried industry of the farmer is demanded by the exigencies of this month, verging as it does upon summer.

Manure and Plaster.

Sow one bushel of finely ground gypsum (land plaster) on every acre in grass or grain, or fallowed land, provided you have not already done so. Gather up all the manure to be had and spread the coarser portion on pasture lands and knolls, reserving the finer or better rotted for the cultivated crops, to be used as top dressing or plowed under.

Corn.

Plant your corn as soon as the earth is warm and the land well worked and comminuted by deep plowing, and frequent harrowing. Use freely, stable manure or fertilizers rich in potash,

sulphuric acid and lime. Remember this crop is a voracious feeder and well repays for a full supply of such food as it requires and delights in. It is hardy and will make a show under the most unfavorable circumstances, but it nobly repays for all the food and attention it receives. In one case it is a poor, non-paying crop, in the other it is full of profit according to the judgment and generosity displayed in its culture.

Potatoes.

Plant early this month the bulk of your late crop. The land should have been well prepared and incorporated with such manures and fertilizers as are adapted to its wants, such as lime, potash, &c., found in ashes, manure, plaster, &c. No crop requires closer investigation by individual experiments than the potato crop, in the cutting or planting whole, depth and distance in planting, manures suitable to different soils, methods of culture. Let each farmer experiment upon all these points this year and give the MARYLAND FARMER the result, for the benefit of its large circle of readers.

Millet, Hungarian Grass, Corn, Sorghum.

Now is a good time to sow any or all these for soiling, drying into winter provender or for ensilaging. Either and all are good for either purpose. Do not neglect to sow at least a few acres of some one or more of these seeds. If you have a superabundance of hay, you can sell it for a good price always, but we do not advise this course unless from necessity. Keep stock in proportion to your provender and thus it will be returned to the soil in a condition for growing plants to take up, and your soil will be enriched while it yields more profitable crops. Thus you secure two important results at one operation, you "kill two birds with one stone"

Look well to your stock at this season and keep them supplied with salt, ashes and fresh pure water. Do not turn them on your pastures until the same can afford to maintain them. That is, let the grass get as well ahead as you can afford before you "turn out" generally. For a few days, especially in rainy weather, look out for hoves in cattle. They are apt to over-feed on the green succulent food. Do not put hungry stock on rank grass at any time; first feed them with hay or grain.

Garden Work for May.

The once bright, summery May is again with us, but not as in days of yore. Years ago the first day of May was hailed with joy by the young

who went Maying, gathering wild flowers which decorated every field and wood-lot, and was the pivot on which seemed to turn the gardener's yearly hopes. How changed! now the woods are bare and the horticulturist is looking for buds and not for blossoms. But He who rules the seasons is merciful, and will send the sunshine and shower in time to him who is reliant and always ready to industriously embrace what his situation finds his hands to do. This is the great beginning month of all important labors in the garden. Plants and vines of all sorts of vegetables are to be set out or sown this month. Grass and weeds are to be kept under perfect control, by frequent use of the rake and hoe, lest they choke off or much impede the growth of the young and tender plants.

Melons, Canteloups, Cucumbers, Squashes, Corn, Okra and Lima Beans are to be planted or sown. Small quantities of *Peas, Beans, Beets, Radishes, Spinach, Endive, Lettuce, &c.*, to be sown four successive crops, about once in each ten days.

Onions.—It is late, but onion sets may yet be planted and onion seed sown thinly for small onions for pickling in September. See that you have a full supply of this great kitchen vegetable.

Brussel's Sprouts.—Sow seeds now to be transplanted in July, for winter use.

Peppers, Tomatoes, Egg-plants and Sweet Potatoes.—Should be set out in hills or rows this month. All are necessary to good living and a large supply of each should be provided for a family. They all sell well in market, and thus any surplus can readily be sold at fair prices.

Celery, Cauliflower and Brocoli—Sow these in small, rich beds, and, if possible, in a moist situation. They will be ready for setting out in July. It is best that they be drawn when two inches or three high and transplanted into other rich soil, about three inches apart, and in rows of six inches apart. By this means they will throw out roots and bunchy feeders, while the stalks will become thick and strong, and each plant will be the better for setting out in the grounds and have greater tenacity of life.

Cabbage.—Such as have already been set out, work often with the hoe and rake to keep the soil light and friable. Sow seeds of Winningstadt, Flat Dutch, Savoy and Drumhead Savoy. All old, but after all, perhaps, the best sorts for fall and winter. Have a plentiful supply.

Garden Herbs.—There is no comfort in a kitchen garden, and none is complete without a full or a large portion of the various important sorts

of medicinal and culinary herbs. First in absolute need, almost daily, for seasoning and other useful purposes, we require Mint, Catnip, Parsley, Tansy, Sage, Thyme, Savory, Mustard, Pepper, Camomile, Shallots and Horseradish. These are among the indispensables, while there are many more that should be cultivated in every rural garden. Have a square to itself devoted to such plants as are here alluded to. A few feet for each sort will be sufficient for a small family—the thyme and sage will occupy the most room. Make the bed rich and lay it off in rows one foot apart, and sow the different seeds now, transplant next month or July, when they will bloom in September, and most of them be ready to be cut and cured for winter. In summer they can be used in the green and growing state. To have a good bed of choice herbs, gives to your family health, comfort and luxury, while it affords you much pleasure in giving to your improvident, begging neighbors.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Machinery in the South.

I took occasion when visiting the Exposition at New Orleans to travel over several Southern States which I had not previously visited, and I was again forcibly impressed with the need of improved agricultural implements in that section. I know of nothing which would more speedily and surely hasten the prosperity so much needed in and so earnestly desired for the South, as the use in cultivating the soil of the same amount of labor saving machinery as is used in the North. In the first place it would save labor; and no matter how cheap labor may be, it is extravagant and destructive of profit to break ground with a one horse plow, harrow it with a one horse harrow, and cultivate the crops with hoes that, as hoes, were cast aside for better in the North fifty years ago. Yet this is the general course pursued in preparing the ground for the seed and in cultivating the plant. The methods of harvesting are yet more primitive. There are two horse plows and harrows and pulverizers well suited to the soil and crops of the South; and their use would make the expense for manual labor just one half of what it is. If the Southern planter rightly appreciated the benefits accruing from the use of improved machinery for harvesting his crops, American ingenuity and inventive genius would

be equal to the task, and such machinery would be forthcoming.

Second, such machinery would lead to better cultivation. We would not see furrows long thrown together, leaving one half of the ground unplowed, were two horse plows substituted for the one-horse affairs now used. Better cultivation would follow in the wake of improved machinery because such machinery is labor saving; it would follow for the additional reason that the best implements now attainable make possible better work than can be done with primitive ones. The harrow with wooden pegs for teeth will not put the ground in as good order as the revolving disk or the smoothing harrow; nor will the darkey with his mule and one horse plow ever be able to do as thorough work as is done by a careful hand directing a good team and guiding one of the best of the two-horse breaking plows. Then better implements would be followed by better methods as a matter of course, because the farmer would make the latter possible, and for the further reason that greater intelligence and pride would be awakened. The man no longer satisfied with the one horse plow and harrow will not be satisfied with poor methods and incomplete culture.

Undoubtedly a majority of the Southern laborers are at present unfit to manage the disk harrow, or implements approaching in intricate construction to the two-horse grain drill or the self-binder. But let there be a demand for more skilled labor and it will come. Some of the Southern laborers will fit themselves for the changed conditions of things, and this will be a great good; while intelligent industrious men will be attracted from other sources, and this will be a yet greater good. The South has so much to gain by the introduction of improved agricultural machinery that he who aids in the accomplishment of this desired result will be a great public benefactor.

St Louis, Mo. JOHN M. STAHL.

Development of Southern Industries.

In view of the fact that the past year has been one of extremely low prices, which in many cases have not paid either the producer or manufacturer, the aggregate of investments made in the South is very remarkable. The stoppage or curtailment of work in many factories in the Northern

manufacturing States shows that when it is difficult to obtain the cost of manufacture, contraction not expansion, of production is to be expected. Such a condition is very unfavorable to new enterprises, yet the Manufacturers' Record tells us of 1,865 new undertakings started during the year in fourteen Southern States, with a total capital of \$105,269,500, and the list is by no means complete. Of course, most of this capital is from the North and West; but it goes South not from sentimental or benevolent motives, but simply because it finds there good opportunities of securing profitable returns. Time was, not very long ago, when New England almost monopolized the manufacture of cotton and wool, and Pennsylvania that of iron; but of late producing agencies are being widely distributed all over the country wherever the most favorable conditions exist, and cotton and woolen mills, blast furnaces, foundries and machine shops are springing up in such numbers in the South that it looks as if that section would soon be able to supply its own population. The heavy freight charges on crude cotton and wool to distant factories, and the manufactured goods on their way back, will thus be avoided, together with considerable wastage in transit and exactions of agents and other middle-men. In many parts of Virginia, West Virginia, Alabama and Tennessee coal and iron ore are close together, affording excellent opportunities for the development of the iron industry, and European as well as Northern capital is making heavy investments in this line. Minor manufacturing industries, too, are finding numerous remunerative openings, and agriculture is improving in its methods, becoming more diversified, and extending its area owing to the influx of Northern and European farmers and stock raisers. The presence of manufacturing industries is highly advantageous to farmers in all sections; for they raise the value of real estate, supply goods at lower prices than those at which they can be obtained from a distance, and afford a home market for a good deal of agricultural products.—*Rural New Yorker*.

The Garden.

Every farmer should be particularly careful to have a well furnished garden for

the supply of kitchen vegetables and all the delicious small fruits which add so much to meal time comfort and enjoyment. This garden should be located in close proximity to the house, and properly enriched and carefully worked with plow and harrow to begin with, and then with spade and rake, if need be for a finish.

It is a fact which surprises all dwellers in cities, that farmers, with every convenience in the way of soil and fertilizers, in the way of abundance of means, and all the implements of successful husbandry, are still content to allow all the results of their labors to be enjoyed by others, when so little labor comparatively will supply their own families with these great luxuries and great health givers or health restorers.

Why should they be content with the mere necessities of life in the way of coarse uninviting food, when by a little care and time, they can provide the choicest vegetables and fruits. Food just as satisfying and a thousand times more gratifying to the body and mind, while its preparation is a pleasure instead of a labor.

How few have properly considered what a delightful succession of vegetables and fruit a garden will supply for their families, and for their own enjoyment?

First among the relishes and appetizers of our life come Rhubarb—known everywhere as pie plant—and the delicious Asparagus, fit for the tables of the highest and best in the land. Radishes, Lettuce and greens make their appearance at the board, and these are followed by young Onions Peas, Beets and new Potatoes, while the delicious strawberry blushes in its dish of cream as a desert, or laughs at us from its snug bed between the enclosing folds of "shortcake." These are followed by string Beans, early Cabbage, Cauliflower, Squashes, Cucumber; while in the fruit line Raspberries and Blackberries, Currants and Gooseberries make the luxuries of the hot

days. Then the garden shines with its ears of sweet corn and its red ripe tomatoes, and ere long the melons show themselves upon the table to be succeeded by the Grape and the larger fruit from field or orchard. Then even when the colder days approach the garden gives its reminder of its value, in its parsnips, its celery, and its salsify, to keep us in good heart until the coming of another spring.

Farmers, do not neglect the garden, for it will be a blessing to your homes and add innumerable charms to your life. And while you thus administer to the good things for the body let us also put in a plea for the beautiful things of life. Set apart sufficient space for all the flowers which grow so luxuriantly in our climate; and which will so richly adorn our homes, giving that element of poetry to our lives which is always needed to enliven our otherwise prosy and matter of fact existence.

The N. O. Exposition.

Must it End Now?

The present Exposition at New Orleans will shortly come to a close, and no doubt many of the Exhibitors will be ready to withdraw their goods. Some of them have undoubtedly reaped a golden harvest, while others have not been so fortunate, and will not be sorry to have it come to an end. But while it remains in its present perfect condition let everyone who can do so visit it, and enjoy a sight such as the world has never before witnessed in so magnificent a style and on a scale so generous. And we hope that the enterprising citizens of New Orleans will not be content to allow this close of the Exposition to end the matter; but will properly care for the buildings during the hot season, and when the Autumn comes will inaugurate anew an Exposition with the same or other contributors. Many will no doubt withdraw; but hosts will stand ready to take the places of

all these ; and during another winter the Exposition will pay pecuniarily as well as in all other respects. Many obstacles stood in the way of its success during the past winter which would not be met with in its continuance for another season ; and we cannot afford as a country to loose those influences which have tended in the past to strengthen the ties of brotherhood between all the sections of our land. It seems to us that now the buildings are all there, the expenses growing out of their construction provided for, it would be shortsighted policy to allow a single season to see their destruction. It would be the part of wisdom to renew with additional elements of beauty the best features of the present Exposition and in a measure make them permanent.

Such buildings in other countries, and in other sections of our own country, have proved attractive points for business and pleasure, and such would undoubtedly be the case in the present instance.

Silk and Silk Culture.

Miss Rossiter, the author of the following article, made her first exhibition of "Silk worms, their eggs and the reeling of silk," before the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society in Philadelphia, when only 13 years of age. She received from that body a diploma in acknowledgment of the excellence of her exhibit ; and has continued her work until now, at 17 years of age, she is by far the best known "Silk Culturist" in America. If addressed, by anyone interested in this department, she will very cheerfully respond, giving all the needful directions and supplying everything necessary to carry forward this pleasant and interesting work. We welcome her to our columns, and shall always feel pleased to say a good word in her behalf ; for such merit and devotion deserve the favor of all. She will undoubtedly give all information as to Mulberry trees, prices, etc., if written to on the subject.

In another connection, Miss Rossiter says ; "With all the vast natural resources, and so suitable a climate as that of a greater

part of this country, we should lead the world in the production of all raw materials, and in our manufactures. The millions of dollars yearly sent abroad to purchase raw and manufactured silk should be retained at home, adding to the wealth of our land. The soil and temperature of nearly all of our States are well adapted to raising both the Silk worm and its food. Silk is in demand ; here we can raise it. The culture of silk particularly commends itself to women and children of the rural districts. It is an occupation of intelligent and moral bearing, not interfering with household duties, but utilizing spare, and often wasted, time. It is light, pleasant, healthy, interesting and profitable, and families engaging in it can materially add to their income each season. We have over 400 silk mills in operation in this country, an open market for cocoons at fair prices, and the food for the worms growing in every state. The cost of starting the industry is trifling, for the first year only, after which, it costs nothing to continue it."

Value of Mulberry Trees to the Farmer.

CONTRIBUTED BY NELLIE LINCOLN,
ROSSITER, SILK CULTURIST,
NEW LISBON, NEW
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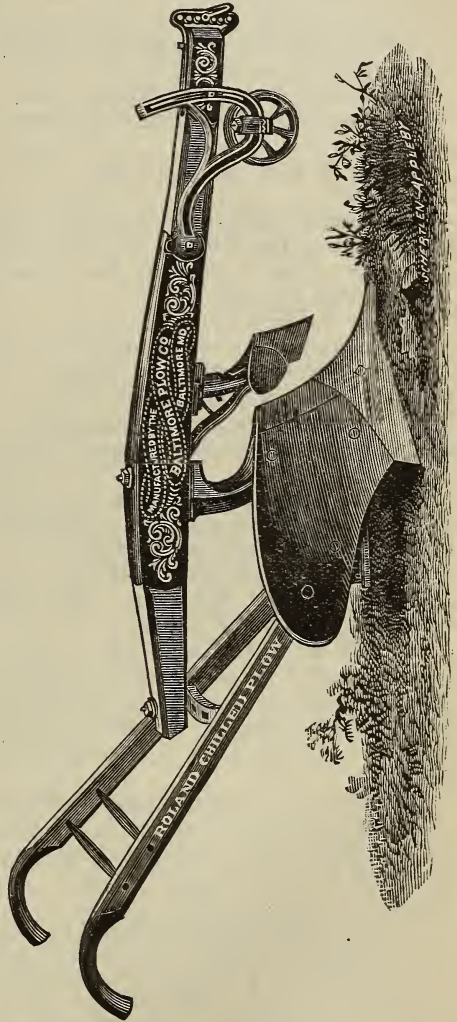
For many purposes the mulberry tree is of great value. The wood of the white mulberry (*morus alba*) has a fine, compact grain, a nice citron yellow color, and takes a beautiful polish. It is well adapted to the needs of the cabinet maker, the cooper and the cartwright. In ship building it has a value which some regard equal to that of our oak. It makes durable fence posts and vine stakes. The bark of the young limbs yields a kind of tow, nearly as fine as silk. Table cloths of this material were thought worthy to be presented to King Henry IV, by his friend Oliver De-Serre, the father of French Agriculture. From the bark of the mulberry the people of China and Japan produce a strong and beautiful paper. The berries of this tree are valuable. Fowls fatten upon them. They are sweeter than raspberries and are prized by many persons as a table delicacy. The tree is ornamental. If left to go without pruning, it will reach a height of forty to fifty feet. Its roots strike deep, so that it

will stand a season of drought and flourish when many other trees would be withered. But by pruning, it can be grown as a hedge, which gives it special value. In dry seasons in Europe its leaves and fruit are fed by farmers to their stock. It has often saved animals from death when grass failed in the field. In some places in Europe it is sown and harvested as a substitute for hay; when, to all these considerations its value for the production of silk is added, the mulberry tree commends itself to the most favorable consideration. Its uses are many, its value is inestimable. It facilitates the fall of rain; it is a substitute for hay; is useful for fencing, for feed, for cabinet work; and most important of all, it is a source of great wealth to those nations that cultivate it for the production of silk. I would earnestly recommend the planting of mulberry trees to the attention of farmers. Fifty or a hundred trees planted around the farmer's house will lay the foundation for a home industry that will enable the women and children of the family, in a short time, to earn several hundred dollars every year. School teachers and school boards should cause mulberry trees to be planted near the school house. They will afford a beautiful shade; but more than this, a few such trees will enable an intelligent teacher to instruct the pupils (without interfering with ordinary studies) in regard to an industry, that will help the boys and girls, in part, to support themselves as soon as they leave school. Railway managers should plant the mulberry trees along their railways, especially where they have large tracts of land to be sold to future settlers. Thousands of silk culturists from Europe are looking to this country with longing desire. The half section of land that has a hundred good mulberry trees upon it, would command a higher price on that account, because the women of the family locating upon it, would, by silk culture, in a few weeks earn a good portion of the family needs for several months, while the men are building, or getting ready for some other industry. Supervisors should plant mulberry trees along the public highways.

Roland Chilled Plow.

The accompanying cut represents the Roland Chilled two or three horse plow with Jointer and Wheel. Many farmers

consider these invaluable attachments; the plow is furnished either with or without their attachments, as desired. The standard socket and brace are made of *malleable iron*, and possess great strength and are easily adjusted. The mouldboard and share of the Jointer are chilled the same as on the regular Plows. This attachment will



be found particularly desirable in sod or stubble, as it turns it completely under—out of sight—instead of leaving the ends of the grass and weeds protruding from the lap of each furrow. The wheel is not recommended for rough land, but on smooth land it makes the plow run very smoothly and of uniform depth. The Wheel and

Jointer are of course both adjustable and can be set at any desired depth. Manufactured by the Baltimore Plow Co.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Timely Topics.

By J. W. DARROW.

Plow deep, much reap.
Clear loose stones off the plowed ground.
Use the roller on sowed crops.
Firming the soil is not enough practiced.
Put some manure round the young

trees.

Keep both eyes on the look out for worm nests.

Much injury has been done by the cold to fruit buds in the East.

Practice soiling your cattle this season if the pasture gets dry.

Among the best soiling crops are rye, corn, oats and peas sown together.

Do not feed too much green food to cattle at the outset, if you practice soiling.

Keep a strict farm account, and see if it doesn't help you to make money by saving it.

How do you actually know which cows pay you best, unless you keep some individual record of what they produce.

One cow may be very profitable; another may not pay her keep. See that you know "which from 't'other."

Jay-Eye-See and Maud S. are wonderful animals, but we wonder more at Princess 2d, 8046, A. J. C. C. H. R. with a butter record of 46 lbs., 12½ ozs., in seven days, and 107 lbs., 3 ozs. in 28 consecutive days.

It seems almost impossible that sufficient food to produce 46 lbs. and more of butter in a week, could be digested and assimilated by a cow. But it shows the wonderful milk capacity of Jerseys.

Farmers should bear in mind, the fact, that thorough preparation of the soil and thorough tillage of the crops, is becoming a positive necessity. Manure and chemical fertilizers cannot do everything alone; and good soil poorly tilled cannot produce its best.

For a rainy day, there's nothing like a work-shop to repair to, and mend up the tools that are getting out of gear. It will save many an odd penny in course of the season; and in the possibility of a sudden break down, to have tools ready to "mend

the difficulty" is to save the time of going a mile, more or less, to the shop, just when time is money, is the full meaning of the term.

If you can keep sheep in your apple orchard, do so. They are the best crop you can raise there, besides the apples.

When New York State can find a better potato for all purposes, than the White Elephant, it will be cultivated. It don't know of any now.

Farmers can save money in purchasing prepared fertilizers by buying in companies of three or four, and having it all shipped at once. In fact, this is true in many things that we all must use in common.

When the time comes for cutting clover, take pains to cure it nicely. Poor, dusty, black-looking clover hay is about as poor fodder as you can place before stock. Cure it green and try to get it in between showers. Getting wet blackens it badly. It should not be spread out and exposed to a bright sun too long, it will cause the leaves and blossoms to fall from the stem.

Chatham, N. Y.

California.

A Visit to Senator Stanford's Great Place— A Fine Lot of Thoroughbreds.

We publish below a few paragraphs from one of the letters of Hon. John L. Thomas, from the *Baltimore American* of April 12th. We are glad to find from his versatile pen so much that would interest our readers, and space alone forbids more generous extracts.

GOVERNOR STANFORD'S FINE STOCK.

After partaking of a hearty repast at the cosy little villa of Mr. Lathrop—a repast that was prepared by Chinese cooks and dispensed by almond-eyed waiters—we were driven across the fields to the stables, where we were given an opportunity of seeing the thoroughbreds and trotting stock owned by Governor Stanford. These stables form quite a village in themselves, with the quarters for the grooms and stablemen, and the necessary attachments to a large establishment. It is the sole duty of one man to keep the time made by the trotters, and of another to know the pedigree of each horse. This pedigree man was a marvel in horse-flesh knowledge, and

the way he rattled off the lineage of each of them as they were brought out of their stables was remarkable. The stables are all large, accommodating from fifty to seventy-five horses, and as clean and neat as a pin. In the several stables were over 600 trotters and thoroughbreds, including the colts. Over a hundred were foaled this year, and we saw colts not over five days old, worth almost their weight in gold. Over one million of dollars has been invested by Senator Stanford in purchasing the best breed of horses, and it requires a small fortune every year to supply them with food and attendance. A steam mill is attached to the stables, where all the feed is ground and made palatable for these favored animals. Not one of them are for sale, and although some of them are valued as high as \$25,000 and \$30,000, no amount of money could purchase them, as they are kept for breeding purposes alone. In the private stables of Mrs. Stanford we saw fifteen or twenty of the picked beauties of the lot, which are set apart exclusively for her private use. The animals were as gentle as they seemed to be intelligent, and no finer specimens of horse-flesh can be found anywhere. Their quarters were far more comfortable and elaborate than many dwellings, and the amount of care and attention bestowed upon them indicated them as the peculiar pets of the ranch. They seemed to know this, and acted with a propriety befitting their dignity and station among horses. We were loth to leave Palo Alto, and regretted our time was so short as not to be able to see all of its beauties and attractions. We look upon this spot as famous in its way, and as well worth seeing as some of the natural wonders of California, and no one can visit it and not be impressed with the wonderful wealth of its owner. And yet, aside from the enjoyment of raising fine horses, the owner cares very little about it, and is said to be as modest and retiring as though he was the possessor of but moderate means.

A RIDE FROM SACRAMENTO

Leaving the city of Sacramento the road follows the Central Pacific as far as Roseville. It then strikes north to Marysville, from there to Chico, passing towns with names like Ceres, Cana and Soto until it comes to Vina, where we stopped over night to look at one of the 56,000 acre ranches of Senator Stanford.

This vast estate of 56,000 acres is all in one tract and lies on both sides of the Sacramento and is watered by Deer creek and other streams. Farm-houses and stables are scattered all over it, and it would take a whole week to ride around it. Thirty-eight hundred acres of this land are planted in grapes, and three years from to-day it will produce more wine than any other vineyard in the world. It is hard to tell what Senator Stanford will do with all his wine. At the age of five years each acre will produce five tons of grapes, and each ton 150 gallons of wine. Let some one cipher out how many gallons this will be to the 3,800 acres, and how many tubs it will require to hold them, and how much of an army it will take to pluck the grapes. Talk of California! There is no end to her riches.

For the Maryland Farmer.

The Vegetable Garden,

There is no portion of a farm more valuable to the farmer than the vegetable garden, if well managed. But the vegetable garden means something more than a collection of potatoes, sweet corn and beans. When composed as it should be, it will contain all of the principal varieties found upon the catalogues. The management of a first-class vegetable garden requires considerable time and careful attention. It is not enough to simply put the seeds in a soil of average fertility, and then with one or two hoeings leave them to care for themselves. In the first place, the soil should be of the best and fertilized in the highest degree; as some writer has expressed "every rod of ground should be dressed with good stable manure to the extent that an acre would usually be dressed for average cropping." Manure of some kind, or fertility, is absolutely demanded; to insure the best vegetables, requires a quick growth, a condition which cannot be effected with an ordinary soil. The next condition sought should be the most thorough pulverization of the soil and mingling therewith of the fertilizer employed. This can hardly be expected from simple plowing, the pulverizing harrow must be brought into exercise and continued at labor until the soil is literally ground to a powder. The finer the soil

becomes the better seed bed is afforded, and the more likely it is to germinate quickly. The next point to be considered is the seed; this should be the best and procured of responsible and reliable dealers.

Farmers frequently attempt to practice economy by growing their own seed, but in many cases this is a mistaken policy.

In a test of reliability of seeds at some experiment station, it was found that seeds grown by farmers themselves were much poorer than those obtained from the seedsmen, so far as vitality of seeds were concerned.

It is a saving to use good seed rather than to incur the risk of waiting for the crop to start and then being obliged to plant over again, in order to get the crop started.

In planting, regard should be had to a succession, and it is often advisable to plant at several different times, in the case of some seeds, so as to obtain a succession that will be more reliable than to trust to different varieties of the same seed. This is especially true of sweet corn; we always design to arrange the planting so as to be sure of green corn, from the first in the season until cut off by frost in the fall, and as beans always serve as an accompaniment to corn, they can be planted with the same end in view. The same rule may also be applied to other vegetables with equal propriety.

The next important step is the cultivation of the garden. Unless this is thorough no important results may be looked for; a false step, or rather the failure to take important steps in this direction may cause a total failure in the success of the garden. The cultivation should be thorough, and as a greater portion of it must be accomplished by hand, it can be well attended to at odd moments when nothing else seems to demand urgent attention. And it should be borne in mind, that there is no danger of doing too much in that line; the frequent stirring of the soil about growing plants has wonderful effect upon their growth. The garden should be a place where every noxious weed or spire of grass is looked upon as an intruder. There is nothing that looks more inviting than a nicely tended garden of vigorous growing vegetables of all kinds.

Columbia, Conn. WM. H. YEOMANS.

Bulletin 109

Dr. E. Lewis Sturtevant, Director of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, publishes a very instructive account of an experiment tried at the Station with potatoes. The whole article would be interesting to farmers, but we have not the space to publish it. The Dr. says:

"In the fall of 1883 we selected and laid aside for seed the largest and the smallest tubers from the most productive and the least productive hill of ten varieties growing in the Station garden.

On the 8th of May, 1884, this seed was cut into single eyes and planted, each selection by itself in the garden, so we had four short rows of each of ten varieties. The first row containing the cuttings of the largest tuber from the most productive hill, the second those of the smallest tuber from the most productive hill, the third row the cuttings of the largest tuber from the least productive hill, and the fourth those of the smallest tuber from the least productive hill.

The cultivation was alike and the treatment was alike during the whole period of growth, and when the tops were dead the rows were dug, and yield of merchantable and unmerchantable potatoes carefully noted.

Here follows a table of the relative productions of the two classes, showing a large margin of merchantable potatoes, in favor of the tubers, both large and small, from the most productive hills.

The smallest tubers from the most productive hills, however, did not exceed in size the smallest tubers taken from the least productive hills, nevertheless our results must be interpreted that the tubers from the most productive hills possess more inherent vigor than do those of the least productive hills.

While we cannot regard a single experiment as in any sense conclusive, yet the evidence seems so clearly in favor of using for seed only tuber from the more productive hills of potatoes, that we think we can not err in commending this subject to the careful consideration of potato growers, and we would be very glad, this coming season, to have those who are interested in the subject make a trial according to this method,

and experiment for themselves, and report the results, however they may result, to the public.

Creamery at Mississippi A. & M. College.

The Mississippi A. & M. College will start a creamery soon. The college will furnish a great deal of milk, but the main supply will come from the surrounding farms.

Prof. J. N. Harvey will have charge, and is competent to make it a success. It is thought that the milk of 500 cows can be easily secured as soon as the success of the enterprise is established.

This will be the first creamery to be established South of Tennessee. Others are certain to follow. In a few years creameries will be established all over the Gulf States; there is some talk of establishing one at Aberdeen, Miss.

The centrifugal separator will be used at the college. The dairy house and fixtures—everything complete—will probably cost \$2,500. It is the purpose of the managers to get the creamery in good working order if possible, before the annual commencement in June, next. Northern writers will still continue to tell us that first-class butter cannot be made here in the South, that this is no stock country, etc. Some of them speak from ignorance, and others from prejudice, and still others from a premeditated design to injure the general reputation of our section as an agricultural region, where mixed farming is not practicable with profit. Just wait a few years and the North and West will see for themselves that ours is actually and practically a stock, grass and dairy region.

Our people have heretofore made the sad mistake of trying to grow those cultivated grasses that have given the greatest value to northern lands, to the neglect of our native grasses. The tendency, however, is now in the other direction, and there will undoubtedly be better results.

I saw a half breed Galloway steer at Miss. A. & M. College the other day, that I was told was fed 30 days on 6 pounds cotton seed meal per day, and all the ensilage and rough hay he would consume, and his daily gain was 6 lbs. per day. The raw cotton seed substituted for the

meal, and the gain was 5 lbs per day. Cotton seed can be bought here in the fall for 12½ cents per bushel.

Many silos will be erected in this county the present year. Many of them will be filled with uncut pea vines, which certainly makes ensilage second to none.

I fed my dairy stock corn and sorghum ensilage (run through a cutter) during the months of January, February and March, and never had stock to do better at this season. I shall erect other silos this year and fill with pea vines. I think I can raise from 8 to 15 tons of pea vines on moderately rich land.

The best ensilage I had the past year was 3 loads pea vines, uncut. I can raise nearly double the quantity of pea vines on poor land that I can corn. I harvest the vines and leave my land in better condition for growing a crop of anything I choose to plant the next year.

Last year I planted 5 acres in Spring oats on rather thin land. Fed them out to four mules and one horse during the months of June, July, August and September—not a grain of corn. The stock were turned upon Lespedeza pasture at night, on rainy days and Sundays and other times were idle. This saved me 100 bushels corn worth \$1 per bushel, or, \$100. I never before had my mules and horses in better condition, they were round and fat while my neighbors stock were thin and gaunt. They fed on corn—no pasture.

I also cut a good crop of crab grass hay off the oat land. If I had planted the land in peas after the oats, I could have secured two tons per acre of pea vine hay, worth in our home market from \$10 to \$15 per ton. I propose to adopt this plan hereafter, only I shall not sell the pea vine hay but feed to my own stock in winter, and they will do well upon this forage without any other feed. Corn is a very expensive crop, too good for exclusively feeding of horses and mules from one year's end to another.

Starkville Miss. ED. MONTGOMERY.

April 11, '85.

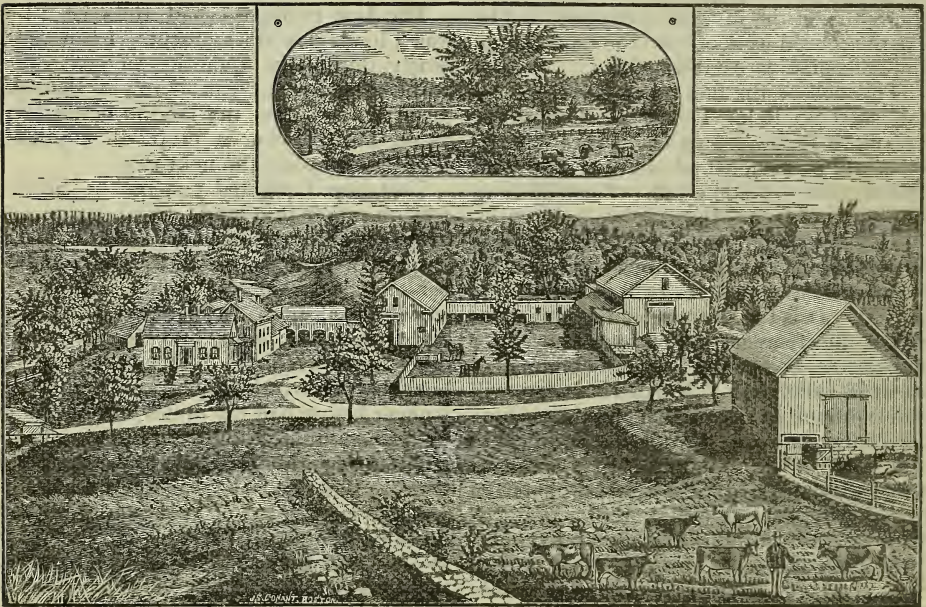
[Will our correspondent give us some description of the kind of pea referred to, and how cultivated.—ED.]

Subscribe for the MARYLAND FARMER, one dollar a year, with a valuable premium.

A Large Stock Farm.

We insert with a great deal of pleasure this month a view of the beautiful place of Greenville J. Shaw, in Hartland Me. Mr. Shaw is a successful breeder of trotting and carriage horses which he has made a specialty. He also breeds and deals in cattle, sheep and swine. This home is a type of many comfortable homes in the state, which makes the state noted as a pleasant place for residence.

worn out lands, and there is no better way to restore than by consuming the hay on the place, and utilizing all the dressing. Maine horses stand high in the markets, and as they become known this demand will increase. There is profit in meeting this demand, and we think it our duty to encourage the raising of more good-sized colts. Get those that are well bred. Look well to the characteristic traits of both sire and dam. Size, shape, disposition and speed of each should be well looked after, for success does not follow haphazard mating. Don't commence with the idea that every



Demand For Horses.

We do not believe, says the *Maine Farmer*, a man can make mistakes in buying young, well-bred horses of good size, provided his judgment enables him to make good selections. The growing demand for young, promising horses opens a field for successful operations. There is need that we introduce new methods, and check the shipment of such large quantities of hay. Our farms are suffering from this heavy drain, and we must seek to restore by giving back the elements necessary to increase their productiveness. The time has passed for us no longer to neglect our

colt is a trotter, but start with the determination to grow the best family horses, those which, having size, symmetry and good constitutions, are always in demand, and if you secure occasionally one with speed, develop it, and make of it all that is possible.

Take good care of the colts; keep them in good condition, and growing from the day they enter this life. Don't be discouraged at the slow development of some. One of our most famous trotters, with a record of 2:16½, sold as a yearling for twelve dollars. Constant application, with the well earned reputation for honest dealing, will not only restore the farm, but

bring financial success. Not every man is fitted for this work. There is a diversity of gifts, and those that love good horses should be encouraged to breed such, for they will perfect them more than any one else can.

THE DAIRY.

Dairy Business of the United States.

The following remarks by the present Commissioner of Agriculture, delivered some time previous to his appointment, have the true ring about them. They prepossess us greatly in his favor, and will show to our readers that they may expect a close attention to the best interests of the farming population in all parts of the country.—Let us unitedly hold up his hands as he labors thus for the general good.

The Mississippi Valley Creamery and Dairy Association, embracing the States of Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota, held its annual meeting last month at St. Louis, Mo., and the president, the Hon. Norman J. Colman, (just appointed commissioner of agriculture by President Cleveland) addressed the convention, and stated that in the States represented the dairy business flourished, and was the most profitable branch of farming. It had to a great extent displaced other branches of farming. It was not difficult for a traveler to distinguish a dairy district, as they gave evidence of greater thrift than any other farming section. Of all the farmers, the dairy farmers were the wealthiest as a class. As a rule, they had the best farms, farm buildings and largest bank accounts. The dairyman was not only a farmer, but a manufacturer. He converts grass, hay and grain into a product which is shipped to all parts of the world. A curious feature connected with dairying was the fact that it was carried on only in the northern part of this country, north of the parallel of 40 degrees, and under very serious disadvantages which do not exist south of that parallel. The disadvantages consisted in long, severe winters, which prevent dairying at the very time butter commands the highest price and is in the greatest demand. Dairying was

much more expensive as carried on in the North, and land was more costly than south of the fortieth parallel, which was really much better adapted to the business. Yet under all these disadvantages dairying was very profitable in the North.

The farmers of Maryland, Virginia and neighboring States can take note of the results of a change which has been going on at the West, and, in view of the restive feeling which is manifested by them at the prospect of their inability to successfully compete with other sections in the growth of those crops which they have been cultivating all their lives, and learn what in a few years can be accomplished by a diversification of their labor, or by a strenuous effort to improve their system, if such a term can be applied to the old border states of the Union. In the language of an earnest farmer, in his appeal to his brethren, "We tell you the day for poor farming has passed by. Another age is upon us. The race is only won by the power of reason. 'Tis an age of brain power, not muscle. We come into close competition with the brightest minds of the day, to farm without the use of brains. 'Tis brain power that twirls your saws, that throws your shuttles, annihilates time and space, by the economic and practical use of steam and electricity. 'Tis brain power that makes your laws and expounds them. Exercise yours, give it development. No place on God's green earth is there a better chance than upon the farm. God helps those only in a high degree who help themselves. Luck has nothing to do with our fates. 'Tis our own actions and work that make for us failure or success. You must learn to grow big crops. You must exercise gumption in all your farm work, and if you do it, it will enable you to keep up with the age and secure the benefit and wisdom of all the most important labor-saving machinery of the day. It will enable you to fill your homes with plenty, furnish your families the best educational advantages, and with good behavior you can in course of time grow up to be a real good granger, and be most triumphantly pointed out as one of the salt of the earth."

In a word, you must read and study more and exchange thought and mind and experience with one another in the club room or the grange. You must experiment for

yourselves and prove the necessities of the soil you till for the crops you wish to raise. You must go to work, and although you may at times have more manual labor to perform than is required in the conduct of other branches of business, yet you will find in the result that you are better off, more independent, and freer from racking care than they."

At the meeting of the association alluded to above, the secretary, Mr. J. W. Sheppard, made an address, from which we extract the following. It not only demonstrates great research on the part of Mr. Sheppard, but places the dairy interests in a position not contemplated by many. Mr. Sheppard, during his remarks, said:

"I took pleasure in calling your attention to the report of the dairy exhibit at the last St. Louis fair, when there were not less than 500 tubs of butter entered in competition for the different premiums. Although there was butter from every state in the Mississippi Valley entered, only one brand, and that made in this parallel, stood the standard test of one hundred points to perfection. Most butter made in the West was manufactured north of this parallel, Iowa taking the lead. The number of butter factories in the different states is as follows: Indiana, 50; Nebraska, 40; Missouri, 61; Kansas, 100; Minnesota, 100; Wisconsin, 300; Illinois, 497; Iowa, 650; total in eight states, 1,798. This value of the dairy product of the state of Iowa alone in the year 1884 amounted to \$50,000,000; while the value of the butter, cheese and milk product of the whole United States for the year was \$500,000,000. The entire value of the oat crop for the year had only been \$150,000,000; pig iron product, estimating the price per ton to be \$18, was \$81,000,000; converted into steel it might reach a value of \$243,000,000; cotton crop, \$280,000,000; wheat crop, \$400,000,000. This showed the dairy product to be of more value than any of the others. It was hard to estimate the amount of money invested in the manufactories, farms, buildings, stock, etc., in the dairy business, but the milch cows alone in the United States were estimated to be worth more than \$700,000,000. The entire capital stock of all the national bankers in the country last year was only \$524,466,345, and the entire capital stock of all the state

banks and trust companies in the United States, 133,958,954. Thus the entire capital invested in the banking business in the country was \$958,225,229, or \$41,774,701 less than the capital invested in the cows alone in the dairy business. Yet it was said that the business was but in its infancy. What would it be when it had fully developed?

How to Make Good Milkers.

No matter what breed you have, says Mr. W. H. White, in *Country Gentleman*, something further is necessary in order to reach the best success in raising good milkers. Good blood, whether Shorthorn, Jersey, Devon, Ayrshire, grade or native, is not everything, but lies at the foundation; something cannot come for nothing. — Treatment in raising milkers should be somewhat different from that in raising a beef animal, or an animal for labor. Begin as soon as the calf is a day old; see that it has sufficient to eat, and is kindly treated and regularly attended to. Never pamper or over-feed, but give it good, generous food to cause a regular early and steady growth. Accustom it to be handled, but not to such an extent as to acquire objectionable habits as a cow, but rather to be fond of the presence of its keeper. Kindness helps to create a quiet disposition, so important in a dairy cow, and this education must begin when the calf is young—any habits acquired when young are apt to cling to the cow when grown.

For a milker, I would have the heifer come in at two years old. She is then old enough to become a cow. I would not as a rule allow her to go farrow, but milk her up to within a few weeks of calving, even if I did not obtain but little at a milking. A cow thus trained will give more milk, and be more likely to hold out long in milk if her after care is judicious and liberal, as it should be. Such treatment tends to form the habit of giving milk, and, as we know, habit is a sort of second nature. Couple the heifer with another bull, one, two or three years older than she is, is preferable to a yearling and better stock is likely to come from such. After the heifer has come in, her feed should be regular and liberal. Good clover hay is the best of all, but we all may not have this for stall feed;

then we must make up for what is lacking in some concentrated feed, such as oat meal, shorts, oil meal, or the like, but great care and good judgment must be used not to over-feed or crowd, as the future cow may be ruined. Undue forcing shortens the useful cow very rapidly.

Ensilage.

I built a silo last summer entirely out of lumber, double boarding it on one side only of the uprights; filled it with field corn stalks, after picking the ears and cutting the fodder about an inch in length. I was about three weeks in filling and covering. The weight was a little more than a foot of dirt, which we have used in the stable as an absorbent. We have been feeding it only to five cows and one yearling. The cows do better and give more milk fed on it than when fed on hay, corn fodder and grain, and the yearling (heifer) has grown remarkably. There has been only one difficulty; the ensilage has decayed some in the corners, and fermented and moulded next to the sides. During the warm weather of January we had to feed it faster than we had been doing, to keep the top from fermenting and spoiling. I would like to be informed how this fermenting and decaying at the sides and corners is to be prevented, and if it is a common experience with siloists. The sides seemed to be perfectly tight, and the decaying at the corners has taken place mostly since the cover was removed in November. In filling we did not pack it or tread it down any, but simply leveled it occasionally. It seemed to settle considerable in filling, and after the weight was applied the ensilage settled only from about nine to seven feet in depth. It is excellent feed, except a three cornered piece of say three feet each way in each corner; the center is, to within a foot of the sides or less, bright and green and only slightly acid.

I would like to enlarge my silo next summer by making it about six feet higher. Its present size is twelve and thirteen feet at the sides by twelve feet high.

I like the plan of ensilaging field corn fodder very much, as by that method the fodder is made as good as early cut hay, instead of the usual dry, hard woody feed, that requires so much grain to feed with it to have it cleaned up and give good results.

Corn is a profitable crop, and by the use of the silo more can be raised, and on poor grass farms like mine this method will be a great help.—P., East Bethel, Vt., in *Mirror and Farmer*.

Four years ago I built a small silo and tried various experiments and satisfied myself that I liked it. Two years ago I built a second, and my opinion in its favor increased, and last year I built a third, and I wish I had another. I have used corn only till the past season. I put in some Hungarian grass whole and it comes out nicely and is eaten greedily. I have always cut the corn, but I think I shall try some whole next year. On one of my farms that had been rented for a long time and got rather run out, I cut but very little hay the past season, but with the aid of ensilage I shall winter more than twice the stock that has been kept there late years; with grass-hoppers and dry weather to contend with, I don't see how I could farm without ensilage. A good many farmers in this vicinity have employed a power and cutter and had their dry corn fodder cut up, and there has been more straw fed here this winter than ever before. E. K. SEABURY.

Feeding Value of Skim Milk and Creamery Buttermilk.

Dr. Goessman, director of the Massachusetts experiment station, carried on experiments last season extending from May 21 to September 22, to determine the relative feeding value of skim milk and creamery buttermilk when fed to pigs. For this purpose six Berkshire pigs, weighing from forty to fifty pounds each, were selected and divided into two lots of three each. The first were fed corn meal and skim milk, and the second corn meal and buttermilk. The skim milk and buttermilk were rated at their selling prices, the former at 2 cents and the latter at 1.37 cents per gallon. Lot one consumed 713 pounds of corn meal and 982 gallons of skim milk of a total value of \$29.62, and gained 617½ pounds live weight, and 510 pounds dressed weight, making the cost per pound of dressed weight, 5.8 cents. Lot two consumed 717½ pounds corn meal and 985 gallons of buttermilk, having a total value of \$23.54. The gain of live weight was 619 pounds and of dressed weight 514.4 pounds, mak-

ing the cost per pound of dressed weight 4.6 cents. The difference in cost is approximately the difference in the estimated value of skim milk and buttermilk, while the result of the experiments show that in feeding value they are about equal, a fact which will somewhat surprise some people.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Dairy Goods.

There is not much wonder that the power of the Legislature of two or three States have been called into play to help break up the miserable impositions imposed upon the consuming public, in the shape of adulterated or artificial butter, for the low price at which the miserable stuff (as far as its composition is concerned) has naturally put down the price of the genuine article. It might have been well enough to have left the thing alone, had it not been for the trouble to make the sellers dispose of it for exactly what it was, and not for what it looked and smelled like. Hundreds of wholesale dealers sold it for just what it was, but many of the retailers, in fact scarcely any, did not observe this, but run off the bogus for the real. As far as taste and smell was concerned, scarcely an expert could tell the difference, and the manufacturers made money fast, as did a host of the dealers. Farmers and other butter-makers could not compete with this stuff, and the products of their dairies had to be sold below actual cost, if straight goods, or else, to enable them to make a profit, they were compelled to resort to adulteration or give up the unequal contest. Even some of our most noted creameries, some which dealers as well as consumers would be willing to swear by as never having stooped to such a mean act as adulteration, have been and are now guilty of admixing foreign matter—fats and oils—to cheapen the cost and thus augment the profit.

New York as well as New Jersey has now, we believe, strict laws against both the manufacture and sale of the bogus butter, and Pennsylvania is soon to follow in line. With these markets (New York, Jersey City and Philadelphia), shut out, the large Chicago and other establishments which turn out tons of the bogus stuff every week, will have to give up in disgust, as well they should.

The fact that this stuff affords cheap butter (?) to the poor is no reason at all for continuing the manufacture and sale of the stuff, for it is no butter at all, in the first place, or but a small proportion, and the poor might just as well buy their oils and fats themselves and do their own mixing, thus being sure it was pure and not from diseased or objectionable animals, and only paying just what it was worth and not a big profit to the manufacturers.

We know of several large wholesale dealers in Butter who were at first bitterly opposed to the stuff, and not merely on the floor of the Produce Exchange, but elsewhere would proclaim sternly against it, but now deal heavily and almost exclusively in it, with never a word to say against it. This is the worst kind of inconsistency and shows that the almighty dollar is as powerful as ever to mould or alter opinions. However, by July we hope to see the thing blotted out in Philadelphia, while Baltimore should follow suit, if she does not already have a prohibitory law on the subject.

The adulteration does not and did not stop with butter, but the cheese men were as deep in the deception, as a rule, as were the buttermakers, and they, too, must give up the ship.

Germantown, Pa. D. Z. EVANS, JR.

Virginia Farmers in Council.

Important Matters Discussed.

RICHMOND, VA., April 16.

Committee on Immigration reported a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the General Assembly to establish a bureau of immigration and labor statistics, in connection with the Department of Agriculture, whose duty shall be to inaugurate and carry out such plans as may be deemed most conducive to the introduction of desirable immigrants into the state. A resolution was offered and referred, requesting the next legislature to pass a general fence law, requiring all persons to fence in their own stock and keep them on their own premises. A resolution was adopted memorializing the legislature to establish a bureau of immigration, and to supply it with sufficient funds to successfully carry out the object in view. The Convention recommends that small farms be put upon the market as an inducement for settlers

from other states to come here. Resolutions were offered and referred setting forth that the Agricultural Department should be fostered by the general government, and that Congress should appropriate the necessary funds; also, requesting the representatives in Congress to secure to the people of Virginia the full benefit of the signal service.



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EZRA WHITMAN, Editor and Proprietor.

141 WEST PRATT STREET,
BALTIMORE, MD.

BALTIMORE, APRIL 1st, 1885.

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The above articles need no description of their merits; they range in price from 25 to 50 cents.

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One Young America Corn and Cob Mill, warranted first-class in every respect, price \$40.00, will be given for 25 new subscribers to the MARYLAND FARMER one year.

Does Advertising Pay.

From the frequent flattering accounts we are constantly receiving from our many advertisers, several of whom have been with us since the first volume of our Magazine, we are fully satisfied that advertising in the MARYLAND FARMER pays well the advertiser. This would naturally be expected for the most important reasons: It has a large circulation and more readers in the country than any other agricultural paper in the Middle or Southern States. Then it is in a convenient form, and an ornament on the centre table of the farmer's home, and when read it is preserved, and each volume bound and kept for years as a future reference book. It is well printed, has correspondents from all sections of the country who are among the foremost agriculturists of the land. It is largely filled with original articles from practical men and does not hesitate to comment freely upon every subject of interest to the farming community. It gives monthly 64 columns of reading matter—never less and sometimes more—most of which is from original sources.

Another fact we wish to make conspicuous here: It is well known that no irresponsible sharper or bogus advertiser can get into the columns of the MARYLAND FARMER. It is acknowledged by all who are familiar with our Journal that we have the best class of advertisers in the country and more than one hundred columns of this class of advertisement appear each month during the year, and often by actual count, over 250 responsible advertisements in a single number, whose united capital represents many millions of dollars. This, while all these facts combine to make the MARYLAND FARMER the best medium in the country for advertising and to assure our readers that there can be no doubt as to the fact that advertising in this Journal is sure to pay the enterprising advertiser.

We have never employed a travelling canvasser, either for subscribers or for advertisements, except occasionally in Baltimore, the Journal winning its way from the beginning on its own merits.

The New Commissioner.

Hon. Norman J. Colman, the new U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture, was born in the State of New York 58 years ago. He removed to Kentucky when about 20 years old, and after a period of study at Louisville he was admitted to the bar, removing to Indiana and entering upon the practice of law. His remaining in Indiana was comparatively short—two or three years—when he removed to St Louis, Mo., and commenced the work, which was destined to be the great work of his life. He established there the agricultural journal so well known as "Colman's Rural World," and has continued its publication as both Editor and proprietor from that day till the present, a period of 36 years. In connection with his paper, or rather as an adjunct to the paper, he engaged in farming, stock breeding, fruit culture, and the necessary branches required to perfect him in a practical knowledge of those pursuits so necessary for an Agricultural Editor. At the same time he studied up all the best theories on the subject of farming, experimenting far enough to gain an idea of their value. He has thus fitted himself in a practical way for the position he now holds as the farmer's best and most influential friend. But this position required much more than a knowledge of the practice and needs of the farmer. It required legal experience and executive ability; and the training of Mr. Colman included these elements also. He served two terms each in the lower and upper house of the Missouri Legislature, and one term as Lieutenant Governor of the State. These have added all he could need to qualify him for a successful administration of his present office.

He has shown himself in the past to be an earnest, hard working, clear headed man; such as all our farmers wish to see in this position; and we are satisfied that he will strive in every way to further the agricultural interests of our country. He is now enjoying vigorous health and is in the very prime of life as regards mature judgment, and the power of enforcing his views upon the attention of others.

In the past few years Mr. Colman has been President of many Agricultural Organizations, some of which have had a membership extending throughout the Union, and he was recommended for this position by voluntary votes of the organization, as well as by a host of the agricultural periodicals in all parts of the land, the Western papers being almost a unit in their advocacy of him for the position.

All this, however, must be lost in the great question, "What will he do?" The field is open before him, and the room for all his energy and experience is ample. He follows the best commissioner the country has ever known, and we hope he may make a record which shall even eclipse that of his illustrious predecessor.

The Benefits of Experimental Farms and Stations.

The advantages that come to the farmers from the experiments that are being tried throughout the country, are of great benefit to the farmers, if they could or would avail themselves of them. Every farm is in a sense an experimental station, and the conducting of affairs would be of much more interest if details were made a record of, but therein consists the trouble; no record of different operations is made, and everything being trusted to memory, important facts are soon forgotten and then all sure guide to similar operations is lost. Of course, it is not supposed that the average farmer is going to enter upon the

task of making a systematic record of every operation performed, and into all those minutes which are necessary in many thoroughly conducted experiments, such as feeding stock and other like matters that require continual weighing of food and animals fed, but any important fact which has an influence in the growth of any particular crop, could be recorded and would be valuable for future reference. But regarding the benefit of thorough experiments conducted by competent men, those at public institutions have a great value bearing directly upon the prosperity and progress of every farmer.

Of course there are times when it becomes necessary that experiments be repeated several times in the same line, in order that the results may be satisfactorily verified.

Experiments were tried at the State agricultural farm of Kansas, which should they be verified by further trial would almost occasion a revolution in the line of feeding.

The trial was for the purpose of testing the comparative feeding value of corn-and-cob meal and clear meal. The experiment extended through the winter of 1883-4, and the result was that a bushel of corn-and-cob, 70 lbs, ground into meal, was more valuable for feeding than a bushel, 56 lbs., of corn ground.

The advantage, too, was very marked, as the results showed a gain of the corn-and-cob meal over clear meal of over 35 per cent. If this should hereafter prove to be the case, the grinding of cobs will be continued for its economical purposes rather than to serve as a division which has sometimes been the case heretofore. Economy in feeding is a matter that comparatively few farmers are qualified to practice for a want of proper knowledge, and any information that can be imparted in this line, from well conducted experiments will be of value to all who have the management of stock. With hay at twenty dol-

lars per ton and corn meal but little more; it is very certain that the latter would be the better feed to use if both were to be purchased, but as farmers expect to obtain a supply of hay from their farms they are not required to expend the money for it.

Save the Best

If you have an extra fine calf, save him for yourself, a less promising one will answer for the butcher. If you have an extra fine colt, don't sell him for a song to the first who may fancy him. If you have a choice pig, hold fast to him and enjoy his excellences next winter in your own family. If you have an extra fine sheep, keep her that she may improve your flock. If you have a wide awake chicken, let no one lay hands upon him and bear him away. Of all your stock always *save the best*.

Cutting Off the Forests.

The loss of the original forests by miscellaneous cutting for lumber and cord wood is greatly to be deplored; and we hear words of warning from the thoughtful men from all quarters of our country. The change of climate where the land has been laid bare of trees is very clearly marked, and many regions have lost in large degree the power to perfect their once favorite productions, through the long seasons of drought which the forests once modified. We urge upon our farmers to save their timber tracts—cut sparingly and only when necessity compels.

"Fearless" Threshing Machine.

We call the attention of farmers and threshermen to the advertisement of the celebrated "Fearless" Threshing-machine, elsewhere in this paper. Unparalleled honors have been bestowed upon this machine, at fairs and exhibitions, State, National and International. And, as equally good and reliable evidences of superiority have been given, by the highest authority, times without number, persons desirous to purchase will do well to consult the manufacturer of the "Fearless," MINARD HARDER, Cobleskill, N. Y.

A Woman's Idea of Expositions.

She says, "Washington is the place for permanent exposition buildings of sufficient magnitude to accommodate the world. All, at least once during their lives, are desirous of visiting Washington, and the people of all countries are coming and going there at all seasons. The exposition would be an additional attraction and of inestimable value." Pass around the "Woman's Idea."

Honors to Dr. Patterson.

Dr. F. W. Patterson, of Lochearn, Baltimore County, Md., was re-elected President of the Dutch Friesian Cattle Association at its meeting in Detroit, Michigan, and was also presented with a magnificent gold headed cane by a number of his friends in the Association on the 50th anniversary of his birthday, which occurred during the meeting of the Association. Dr. Patterson has one of the finest herds in the country.

Cheese for Poultry.

EDITOR MARYLAND FARMER:

"The Vera Cruz Creamery Company of Lehigh County, Pa., having on hand a number of July-made cheese, which had become strong from long keeping, I purchased eight of them for \$2.00. They weighed 280 pounds. I fed them during the winter to twenty White Crested Black Poland hens with the following results: From January 1st to March 20th, I gathered 790 eggs.

Shimersville, Pa.

D. N. KERN.

WE have several books we can furnish our subscribers with, that will be found invaluable and well repay them for the small price asked for them, twenty-five cents each, entitled "Poultry for Profit," "Kendall's Horse Book," "How to Grow 400 Bushels of Potatoes" and others.

KNOW THYSELF by reading the "Science of Life," the best medical work ever published, for young and middle-aged men.

More Fine Jerseys for Maryland.

At the sixth annual combination sale of Jersey Cattle, conducted by Messrs Peter C. Kellogg & Co., at New York, April 21 to 24, inclusive, some of the choice animals, both as to individual worth and pedigree, were purchased by our enterprising Maryland breeders.

The fine young cow Princess of Ashanter, of the Coomassie blood, and who has a record of 16 lbs. 12 ozs. in seven days, was purchased by Mrs. S. M. Shoemaker of Baltimore County, for \$2,000.

Mr. Wallace King of Mount Washington, Baltimore County, bought for the choice herd which he is founding, the heifers Miss Kiley, 31.393, for \$360, and Shirley of St. Lambert, 29.626, for \$900, both of the Rioter family which probably enjoys the highest reputation of any of the popular families. Mr. G. S. Watts, of Watts & Seth, bought four heifers strong in the same blood, as follows: Albert's Countess, 26.363, for \$600, which unites with the Rioter blood that of the Pansy Albert; Rioter's Nora Pogis, 30.776, for \$1,000; Diana of Somerset, 29.562, for \$1,000; Morningtide, 31.391, for \$450, the latter by an extra well bred specimen. Mr. Watts who has heretofore given exclusive attention to Guerneys shows in thus starting a Jersey herd, and on such solid foundation that he is wide awake and fully up with the times. The firm of which he is a member, Watts & Seth, well-known Jersey breeders, added to their already choice herd two fine specimens, one a daughter of the celebrated Duke of Darlington, and the other an imported cow possessing 50 per cent. of the blood of Yankee 27 F., and is consequently a judicious select for a cross with their fine bull Orestes.

Mr. W. H. Oler, determined not to be outdone, brought with him a fine bull of the Stoke Pogis-Victor Hugo family crossed on the Alphae.

All of which but illustrates what we have often asserted, that the herds of Baltimore County contain some of the choicest bred and best animals to be found in the world and furnishes a market especially to the Southern and Western breeders unequalled.

By many, the bottom was thought to be out of the Jersey boom, but this sale where 306 animals, good, bad and indifereent, averaged over \$264 each, shows that the Jerseys in these depressed times have maintained their value probably more than any other class of property.

The Bureau of Agriculture.

We notice the following appointments by our new Commissioner: Colonel Frank Nesbit, of Missouri, to succeed General Carmen as Chief Clerk of the bureau. Western Congressmen say that Mr. Nesbit is one of the best selections that could have been made. He has been for many years Clerk of the Missouri State Senate, and is an efficient executive officer. He is, besides, a large stock raiser, and has a very active interest in agricultural subjects.

The Wonderful Phosphate Deposits of South Carolina.

The most wonderful and inexplicable formation known to Geologists is that of the Charleston Phosphates. These deposits consist of Nodules of Phosphate of Lime, thickly interspersed with the huge bones and teeth of Antidiluvian Mammoths, (land and water animals in the same bed) of Stupendous and Gigantic proportions.

A large number of companies, representing millions of dollars, and employing thousands of laborers, are engaged in mining and manufacturing these phosphates.

One of the most prominent of these is the Ashley Phosphate Company of Charleston, S. C. This Company is under the management of Dr. F. L. Frost, President,

and Mr. J. P. DeSaussure, Secretary and Treasurer. These gentlemen have been in the fertilizer business for a long number of years, and are favorably known to the trade, and to the farmers of the Southern and Western States.

The Agricultural College.

The Legislative Committee on Agriculture has reported a resolve appropriating \$45,000 for the Massachusetts Agricultural College, to be expended in rebuilding the dormitory, and in erecting, in connection therewith, a building to be called Agricultural Hall, the lower story to be used for an agriculture lecture room, museum and working room, and the upper story for lecture rooms for natural philosophy and the sciences; \$2,500 for furnishing said rooms; \$3,500 for heating them; \$5,500 for scientific apparatus; \$6,000 for a tower for the new chapel building; \$3,000 for heating and gas apparatus for the chapel building; \$1,000 for chairs, etc., for the chapel; \$1,000 for bookcases and furniture or the reading room and library; \$500 for coloring the walls of the chapel; \$2,000 for repairs and alterations in the old chapel. The work is to be done by contract, and is not to exceed \$45,000.

We place the above suggestive figures in our columns, that our people may see what is being done for the agricultural college of a State dependent for its prosperity upon its manufacturing industries; while Maryland, almost wholly devoted to agriculture, fails to appropriate the smallest pittance in this direction. The farmers should let themselves be heard in behalf of their own interests here, so decidedly, that our legislators will feel themselves in duty bound to make our college liberal appropriations, that it may live and prosper and send forth its influence for good throughout all our borders.

HORTICULTURE.

How to Grow Cantaloupes.

The Cantaloupe should not be confounded with the muskmelon, being so much superior in every way, that any one who has been used to the former, would never exchange for the latter. Whether the cantaloupe is an improved muskmelon, or the muskmelon a degenerated cantaloupe, still remains an open question. The cantaloupe delights in a warm, porous soil, preferring a sandy loam to any other. This kind of soil is peculiar to that part of Anne Arundle county, from which the Baltimore markets procure this excellent vegetable—or, shall we call it a fruit? They will also do well on a heavy soil, provided it is kept mellow during the period of growth. They mature several weeks earlier on sandy soil than upon heavy land, but the finest specimens can be grown upon the latter. For early crop they should be planted during the first week in May, in this latitude, and sometimes during the latter part of April; but such early planting must run the gauntlet of late frosts and cold, killing rains, which makes a "stand" an uncertain thing. In preparing the land for planting, mark the rows five feet apart, dropping the manure to the amount of a fork-full of well-rotted compost, or stable manure, to the hill. This should be well mixed with the soil in making up the hills, which should be broad and flat. The seed, to the number of a dozen or so, may be planted either by hand or with a hoe, taking care not to cover more than one and a-half inches deep; the soil should be lightly pressed upon the seed to retain the moisture. When the seed leaves of the young plants are grown, it is well to mellow the soil around them with the fingers or a light hoe. Strict watch must be kept for the "cut worm" and "striped bug" at this stage of growth. The first is kept in check by replantings and hand worming, the latter with applications of lime, soot or plaster scented with a very small quantity of coal oil or spirits of turpentine. The plants should be thinned just before throwing out runners, to two in a hill. Frequent cultivatings until the vines meet across the rows, should be given, working very shallow towards the last. Extra early speci-

mens may be had by starting upon inverted blocks of sod in hot beds or cold frames, and setting out in the field after danger from frost is past. Oyster cans, flower pots, strawberry boxes and wooden troughs may be utilized for the same purpose. The cantaloupe will bear transplanting very readily if plenty of soil adheres to the roots. Quite a number of growers are starting them under glass of late years, realizing much better prices than from later ones started in the open ground in the ordinary way. A practice much to be deprecated, is the habit of cutting too early and too green for market; such specimens find sale in Baltimore, but the mystery to me has been what becomes of them after they reach distant northern markets. I cannot imagine any other use for them than pickling or preserving. The practice works against the grower in the end, as it destroys in a great measure the demand at the north. None should be cut for market until on the point of "turning." This can be easily told by experienced growers, and should be more generally practiced. A cantaloupe never has the fine delicious flavor enjoyed by the lovers of this excellent "fruit" unless allowed to ripen upon the vine.

Anne Arundel Co., Md.

R. S. C.

We are indebted to the Messrs. Vicks' of Rochester, N. Y., for the above engraving showing the different varieties of beans, and we clip from their *Floral Guide* the following:

"Beans like a dry and rather light soil, though they will do well in any garden soil if not planted too early in the spring. Dwarfs are earliest and most hardy, as a general rule. In our engraving we show plants of both Dwarfs and Runners, and the old Windsor, as well as specimens of the most popular and useful sorts, drawn of the natural size of the shelled dry beans, and as true as we could make them. In garden culture beans are generally planted in rows three inches apart, and the rows a foot apart; in field culture in drills wider apart, so as to cultivate with horse one way. Running beans are planted in hills two or three feet apart.

Figure 2 shows the Refuge; 3 the Golden Wax; 4 Early Mohawk; 5 Speckled Cranberry; 6, White Kidney; 7, White Marrowfat; 8, Early Valentine; 9, Early Rachel; 10, Large Lima; 11, Horticultural; 12, Giant Wax; 13, Black Wax; 14, Scarlet Runner. The engraving of plant on the right shows the habit of the Running Beans; on the left the English Broad Windsor, and the centre the Dwarf.



Different Varieties of Beans.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Peaches and Apples.

For some time past the pages of the *Massachusetts Ploughman* have been largely occupied with stenographic reports of the doings and sayings of "Farmers Meeting," which are being held at the Ploughman building in Boston. Though there is a great deal said at these meetings which is of real practical value, if the remarks were condensed and digested by an expert. A full report of the whole reminds one very much of the sayings and doings of the wise men whose vast horticultural knowledge was so accurately reported in the columns of the *N. Y. Tribune* of twenty-five years or more ago, under the title of the "Proceedings of the Farmers' Club of the American Institute." In the *Ploughman* for April 18, 1885, is a report of one of the farmers' meetings, at which various well-known gentlemen discussed fruit culture. Some of these gentlemen have had long experience as fruit growers, and with the fruits common in their latitude most of them are doubtless entitled to be considered experts. But when they come to discussing the "yellows" in the peach they are evidently all at sea. The fact is that the "yellows" is much less common with the peach than many suppose. Many wise "professors" seeing a starved peach tree with feeble shoots and yellow foliage diagnose the case at once as "yellows," and when they find that the starved tree thrives and improves upon a more liberal diet, they at once proclaim that certain chemical fertilizers will cure the yellows, just as certain quacks cure consumption in the human subject when the disease never existed. The yellows I was long ago convinced is the result of the destruction of the feeding roots of the tree by the black *Aphis* which preys upon them. When once this insect has destroyed the roots, all the potash that can be applied will be no more successful in curing the tree than medicine will be in curing a man whose lungs are gone. Dig up a tree affected with yellows and, my word for it, you will find the roots covered with *Aphides*.

One of the speakers at this farmers' meeting has been South. This gentleman, Mr. Bill, is a great friend of the apple, and thinks it is a profitable fruit to grow, and in this opinion he is doubtless right. But

when Mr. Bill goes on to state that the apple does not thrive in the South, and that "you cannot find them below Virginia," he makes a statement that is far from being correct. Mr. Bill, has probably, made a trip through the coast region of the South, and has not seen the highlands of the interior. If he will visit Western North Carolina, East Tennessee, West Georgia and Northern Alabama, he will probably begin to learn that his knowledge of apples is more limited than he supposes, and that there exist throughout these regions native seedling apples of far greater excellence than the vaunted market sorts grown so largely at the North. There has surely been talk enough during the last score of years or more about these seedling apples of the Cherokees and Choctaws, which many of our enterprising nurserymen are engaged in propagating, as much better adapted to our climate than the Northern winter apples. There is a woeful amount of ignorance amongst the growers North of the varieties of apples native to the region South of Mason's and Dixon's line. But our own people are waking up to the value of these native sorts for planting in this latitude, and the time is not far distant when our planters will learn better than to plant inferior Northern apples here and Southward, which ripen with us too early to keep in winter, and will plant the good, old juicy, winter apples of their own section. The whole upland section of the South is a fine apple region. In the coast country, I suppose that Mr. Bill himself could hardly grow apples successfully, nor could he grow oranges and bananas in Massachusetts. The limitations of soil and climate are gradually being found out by growers, and it is hardly worth while to attempt the culture of apples in Florida any more than that of oranges in Massachusetts. The man who knows his business adapts his culture to his location.

W. F. MASSEY.

WE call the attention of our readers to the great auction sale to take place in New York on the eighth of this month, of Jersey Cattle, belonging to Mr. T. S. Cooper. See ad. in in this Journal.

WE would be thankful if our subscribers would write us their experience, as we would much rather give the experience of actual occurrences than those of theorists.

THE POULTRY-HOUSE.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Chapters on Chickens.

BY EXPERIENCE.

CHAPTER V.

SETTING THE HENS.

1. When you set hens it is best to have the nests on the ground, slightly concave, of fine hay or straw, broken or crushed by hand, or, of very thin wood shavings. Use sulphur or carbolic powder to keep them free from vermin.

2. Place the nests where the hens will not be disturbed, somewhat concealed away from other chickens.

3. If removed from the nest the hen has first chosen, take her at night. Give her two or three china or wooden eggs and let her sit two days. If she sticks, give her eggs and let her go to work. In January, February and March, nine eggs are enough; in April, eleven, after that thirteen.

4. It is well to have her nest so arranged that she will be protected and the nest can be made dark at any time. Mark on her coop the day of the month she commences her work.

5. Keep food and water handy, but not within reach without leaving the nest. Provide a dusting place to which she can resort if she chooses. Keep all her surroundings as neat and clean as possible.

6. At night shut her in her nest that nothing may disturb her. She will seldom leave the nest more than once in 24 hours, and you can generally regulate the time of her leaving the nest by the time you open the nest-box each morning.

7. If for any reason a hen abandons her nest, place the eggs under another hen; or, after examining and cleaning the nest thoroughly, place a broody hen on the eggs, shut her in and darken the nest. After 24 hours give her liberty again; but she will generally stick. Even if the abandoned eggs feel cold they should be treated as above, for they will bear considerable cold without injury.

8. If more than one are set in the same yard, let them out one by one for exercise and feeding, if practicable. If several are loose at one time, see that each returns to

her own nest.

9. On the 20th and 21st day see that food and water are within reach of the hen without the necessity of her leaving the nest. Take the shells from the nest carefully, but leave the young chicks with the mother. They will not need any food for 24 hours or more.

10. On the 23d day remove the hen and her brood to the yard for broods and the coop prepared for her. If you have several broods hatched on the same day, given them to one hen.

11. If you suppose some of the eggs not hatched are good, containing live chicks, place them under one of the hens whose brood you have given away and let her try them a few days. You may get one or more for your trouble.

12. As soon as the chicks are removed take away the old nest and burn it. Clean the nest box and whitewash it, or, scald thoroughly and use carbolic powder. Renew the nest for the next occupant. Dust the chicks with insect powder when first removed from the nest.

13. Eggs from hens over one year old, are the best for setting. The chicks are larger and stronger than from pullet's eggs. If eggs intended for hatching must be kept any length of time, place them in a box of earth and leaves, put them in the cellar way and turn the eggs occasionally.

14. Smooth, well shaped, good sized eggs are best for setting. Select the eggs of the most vigorous and active hens; your own eye will always make the choice.

15. If eggs are broken in the nest, take out those soiled when the hen is off for feed and wash in bloodwarm water, clean the nest thoroughly and replace the eggs. The reason for washing the soiled eggs is that the white of the broken eggs acts as a varnish, fills the pores in the shell of those which remain, shutting out all air and smothering the chicks. They are sure to die before hatching.

16. You can sometimes help a chick from the shell by removing a slight portion of the shell and skin in that part nearest the bill of the chick. This requires care and judgment. If the least sign of blood appears, stop, place the egg back under the hen and after some hours try again. This will pay only when the eggs are of best breeds, and you can give extra attention afterwards.

17. Two-year-old hens are the best sitters and mothers; pullets are apt to be careless and inconstant. A sitting hen should be healthy, clean, and in a good condition of flesh when you set her. Choice hens may be kept as breeders three or four years. If short of broody hens you can often utilize one of the hens whose chicks you have taken away.

18. If not convenient to set your hen on the ground, cut a sod of good size, and make the nest on that with grass side up. You can use sulphur about sitting hens, but not kerosene or any other preparation of coal oil.

Incubators.

We have read with a great deal of interest the poultry discussion in recent numbers of the *Massachusetts Ploughman*; and especially the conflicting opinions in the field of artificial incubation. It is very evident from the scope of the discussion, that a great amount of work still remains for the proper perfection of incubators; and it is equally evident that the incubator in due time will undoubtedly prove a success. But there is plenty of room for improvement, and the development of genius in this direction is yet in its infancy. The principles of artificial incubation are very simple, and the application of those principles would seem to be a very easy matter. It would be a very easy matter, were not the effort directed to the manufacture of a machine which will require little or no attention from the breeder. If the operator will give a reasonable degree of attention, the very simplest incubator—which consists of a proper arrangement of hot water—will serve without fail to accomplish the work successfully. If, on the other hand, the operator is unwilling to devote a reasonable degree of attention to the object in hand, or is so situated that he cannot, then the incubator becomes a complicated affair, with such a multiplicity of details, that human ingenuity is yet at fault.

It is required that eggs for chickens

should be kept with reasonable steadiness at a certain degree of heat for the usual term of twenty-one days, and there are many different methods by which this may be successfully done. Any means of accomplishing this, if perfectly understood by the owner, will succeed; and this is the reason why each manufacturer succeeds best with his own production and causes each one to believe his own the best yet invented.

The average amount of heat to accomplish the work successfully should be 104 degrees, with the proper provision for moisture and the turning of eggs often enough to prevent the contents from setting and becoming attached to the shell. These facts given in the outset, it is readily seen that anyone who will devote time to an incubator, can secure a reasonable degree of success, and any one of the many now on the market, may be purchased without fear of the result.

We have no doubt, however, that the day will come when the incubator will be an institution so perfected that 50 or 500 of them may be operated in a single building by improved machinery, which will need only the ordinary over-sight of a few minutes to see that it is moving harmoniously.

We can only advise our readers to give what encouragement they can to the manufacturers of incubators, keeping constantly before them, however, the fact that as a piece of self-acting machinery they are yet very far from perfection. Good work, with the abundant help of the operator, can now be accomplished, but only by such help and continuous attention. Give them this and any operator can have scores and hundreds of chicks whenever he desires.

Housewife's Delight.

Every housewife should be in possession of the "Housewife's Delight," a large, durably bound and neatly printed compilation of over 1,000 receipts and hints for the home. 1,000,000 already sold. Only 50 cents each or 5 for \$2.00. See advertisement in another column. Published by B. K. FOCHT, Lewisburgh, Pa. m3m

Live Stock Register.

Young Beef the Cheapest.

The younger the animal can be brought into condition for the market the cheaper can the meat be produced. Pork made from pigs eight months old is produced at much less cost than from hogs one or two years old. Beef cattle brought to maturity for the market at two years old, cost less per pound than those matured at four or five years. Calves so fed as to weigh 1000 pounds at the age of one year, afford meat at less cost than two, three or four year old animals. Yet few calves are fed till they are a year old or even six months old. The greater portion of them are killed for the market when only about six weeks old or even when younger than that. Slaughtering calves at such an age is wasteful. It is throwing away a rare opportunity for the cheap production of meat.

The aim, generally, is to dispose of the calves as soon as possible, so as to avoid giving them so much milk. It is costly feeding calves on whole milk. So it is, and it is not necessary to do so. After the calf is a week or ten days old, it can be given part skim milk with a little oil-meal added to supply the place of the cream removed. Gradually the milk used can all be skimmed and the oil meal increased in proportion. Even whey may be used to feed the calves. Prof. E. W. Stewart says that the addition of a quarter of a pound of oil meal scalded with hot whey or hot water, to a gallon of whey, forms a suitable food for a calf ten days or two weeks old, and when the calves are three or four weeks old, another quarter of pound of oil meal or wheat bran, ground oats or barley meal, should be added to each gallon of whey. As the calf becomes older he will be able to eat more meal, grass or hay. A little experience in this direction would soon make plain how the calves could be fed to advantage and made to become sources of profit.

H. REYNOLDS, M. D.

Livermore Falls, Me.

Sheep Husbandry for the South.

The South is peculiarly well adapted to sheep husbandry. The system of cropping pursued in that section in former years exhausted the fertility of much of the land, and

the pasturage of sheep upon the exhausted land would be a ready means of restoring it to fertility. The great advantage, however, of the South over the North in sheep husbandry is the mildness of the winters, enabling the sheep to obtain their living nearly or quite the year 'round. The English practice of growing turnips to feed the sheep can be adapted in that section to good advantage. This method would not only conduce to the enriching of the land, but would also be the best way of fattening the sheep. Thousands of sheep might be kept in the South without interfering with other industries, and add greatly to the resources and profits of the farmer.

Reports made to the Department of Agriculture indicate how cheaply stock can be kept in that section. One farmer in Camilla, Mitchell County, in southwestern Georgia, where the snow never falls and the ground seldom freezes, and where the original pine forest is carpeted with native grass, says that his sheep, 3500 in number, cost him annually fourteen cents per head. They shear three pounds each which sells at thirty cents per pound. He does not feed his sheep at any time during the year. Another farmer in Putman County, Middle Georgia, keeps 138 sheep—a cross between the merino and common sheep—and says that they cost him only what salt they eat while they pay him over one hundred per cent. in wool and lambs. All the unoccupied lands in the South should be stocked with sheep. Large numbers can be kept without feeding, more than the sheep can obtain for themselves, but wherever it is desired to produce good mutton for the market, it will be advantageous to feed liberally in addition to the grass.

Livermore Falls, Me.

H. REYNOLDS, M. D.

Baltimore Telegram.

The *Maryland Farmer* for April is one of the best numbers yet received of that sterling old agricultural monthly—in fact, each succeeding number seems to be an improvement on its predecessor. Nothing of interest to the farmer, gardener, horticulturist, apiarian, stock breeder, dairyman, poultry fancier, or country gentleman is omitted. Its typography is neat and clean, and its subscription price (\$1 per annum) very low, so much so that no country library should be without it. Published by E. Whitman, Baltimore, Md.

We doubly appreciate the above from

our enterprising cotemporary in this city, which has become under Mr. Young's management a successful and interesting paper for both city and country readers.

Hotel Fiske, Old Orchard, Mo.

For several years past we have made it a point to spend a short time during the summer months at this favorite Resort, and have found it as pleasant, healthy and enjoyable a place as any we have visited. His advertisement is lived up to by his service to his guests, and we consider him very modest in representing his advantages. It is well, however, to even do better than one promises as has been our experience at Hotel Fiske in the past.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Top-Dressing; or, How?

There is some question—some discussion—as to the best mode of applying manure; and, as I have in the past years made considerable experiments and observations on the question. Some suggestions by me may be of use to such farmers as do not know more than I do about it.

In the large number of cases I found that *surface application* of manures was more advantageous than any other mode. Spread broad cast on winter wheat, late in autumn, one or two inches thick, or on meadows in the fall, and then after the first mowing, well-rotted manure gives more benefits than the cost of doing it. It serves to protect, very greatly, from the injury of freezing and heaving; as also from the evils of drouth by hot rays falling directly about the roots, while snow and showers carry the fertilizing qualities into the soil immediately about the roots of plants. Nature's plan, everywhere, in the forests and wild prairie fields, is to manure on the *surface*, and she is a safe guide.

A good wagon or cart, arranged for readily and evenly spreading manure on the field, would be one of the most useful as well as saleable implements that can be introduced to the farmers in addition to their other tools.

Plowing in is good, but spreading on the surface is better.—D. S. C.

How It Pays.

It was decided at the meeting of the Kent County Agricultural Association last week that it is advisable to use fertilizer to the amount of from 300 to 400 pounds per acre on the corn crop: that the extra amount of corn and fodder raised will repay the cost of fertilizer, and that the benefit will, in part, remain for future crops.

California Honey.

We were present at the New Orleans Exposition and attended the Beekeepers' Congress, where we heard much of interest and obtained some items which surprised us as to the extent of the honey business. We append some figures from one small section of our great country.

At this Beekeepers' Congress at New Orleans, Mrs. J. E. Pleasants, of Los Angeles Co., Cal., gave these notable figures as estimate of the honey product of Southern California: Number of beekeepers, 1,000; colonies of bees, 100,000; amount of honey to the colony, 200 lbs., which gives us 20,000,000 lbs. in all, or 10,000 tons. In addition, the wax amounts to five pounds to the colony, making 500,000 lbs. At the market value of 25 cents per pound we have the snug sum of \$125,000 for the wax alone.

Baltimore County Figs.

Mr. Wm. Fowler, of Clifton Park Garden, the late Johns Hopkins' estate, says that he has cultivated figs for the past twenty-five years with success, and in that time has never failed in securing a crop. The method of treatment used by him he gives as follows: From the 10th to the 20th of November we dig a trench around the bushes, cutting away about half of the roots they have made the late season, when the bushes are growing vigorously, and less when they are not so robust, bending down the branches to the ground in the form of a cross and covering them with earth from the trenches from three to four inches in

thickness, and in spring uncovering them from the 1st to the 10th of April. They bear fruit abundantly, ripening about the 1st of July, and continuing to bear until November, and later if not destroyed by frost. Of about twenty-four fig bushes, each covering eighteen feet in diameter, we have in one year sold over twenty bushels of fruit, besides supplying the table. The soil here is a poor, gravelly loam, with clay sub-soil, but requires no manure for figs. So far as I know, the fig is exempt from disease and insects in outside culture.—*Baltimore County Union.*

THE first semi-annual fair of the Cecil County Agricultural Society will be held in the grounds of the society, at Elkton, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 2d, 3d and 4th of June, and not in May, as was erroneously stated a few days ago. It is expected that the display will be equal to the autumn fairs heretofore held.

Pea-meal as Butter Food.

Mr. J. H. Gest, who conducted the late great tests of Princess 2d for the A. J. C. Club, is represented by several papers as considering *pea-meal* as the great fat-producing element in her ration; and these papers (one a dairy paper) saw nothing incongruous in this view. If the test of the cow was as misleading as this statement about pea-meal, Mr. Gest's time was wasted. Pea-meal has the least fat of all our grains used as food for animals, except beans. Nearly all analyses give peas but 2 per cent. of fat, whereas oats has 6 per cent., linseed oil-meal 10 per cent. This cow was fed during this test 22 lbs. of oat-meal, 22 lbs. pea-meal, 5 lbs. linseed oil-cake, 1 lb. of bran—50 lbs. in all—besides carrots, beets, and clover hay. The oat-meal contained three times as much fat as the pea-meal—even the 5 lbs. of oil cake had more fat than the 22 lbs. of pea-meal—and if she eat 15 lbs. clover hay, this had more fat than the pea meal. But it is proved by experiments that fat is produced also from the carbo-hydrates of the food, yet, in that view, the oat-meal is richer in carbo-hydrates than the pea-meal—the pea-meal is richer in only one class of elements, and

that is the albuminoids, or muscle-forming elements. The legumen of the pea is the same chemically, as the caseine of the milk. Pea-meal is a grand food to keep up the muscular condition of the cow and furnish the cheesy element of the milk.

Is it not about time that dairymen, experimenting in excessive high feeding, should know something about the chemical nature of the foods they use? There is no mystery as to where the fat came from to produce such an enormous quantity of butter. There was over 3 lbs. of pure oil in her food, and starch and other carbo-hydrates enough to produce 4 to 5 lbs. more of fat, besides plenty of food to support the cow. Pea-meal is not a fat-producing food, but a muscle-producing food. Canada pork made upon peas is lean, not fat like corn-fed pork.—*Nat. Live Stock Journal.*

A Pretty Long Barbed Fence.

Few people have, or can have, a full conception of the real extent of our country. Sometimes a few aggregate figures will help the mind. Here is an example: During the past year the sales of barbed-wire amounted to 100,000 tons. Yet any one traveling through the country generally would only see this kind of fencing here and there, often not a specimen in a dozen or twenty miles. Where used, the number of running strands varies from two to four, sometimes five, and again but one with boards. Call the average three. As the weight is about 1 lb. to the rod, the above amount would make 200,000,000 rods, or 62,500 miles of barbed-wire; or 20,833 miles of three strand fencing; or over six such fences clear across our country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. At 7½ cents per pound, retail price, it would amount to Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.)—*Ex.*

Plenty of Peaches This Season.

Reports from Delaware and Eastern Shore

Reports from all over the peach growing districts of the peninsula predict an unusually large crop, unless some unforeseen disaster shall occur.

Very favorable reports from Queen Anne's, Kent, Wicomico and Somerset counties, Md., and from Accomac and Northampton counties, Va.

GENERAL GRANT'S CASE.

"Someone Has Blundered!"—Can it be Possible?

The New York *Herald* says: "If General Grant should recover from a disease which 'should prove not to have been what it has been described, then his medical attendants * * * will be expected to explain the reasons 'for one of the most remarkable instances of 'discrepancy ever recounted in the history of 'medical practice.'"

The other day an eminent young physician in the last stages of consumption, unable longer to talk, called for pen and paper and indistinctly wrote this advice to his physicians: "Make dying comfortable."

This seems to have been the sole purpose of General Grant's attending physicians. They were making dying comfortable, but they were not curing their patient. He amazes them by getting better!!

The utter failure to rightly diagnose and properly to treat General Grant's disorder was a serious blunder, emphasizing what has so often been said, that professional treatment, being purely experimental, is just as likely to be wrong as right.

Had the general an ulcer on his arm the physicians would have treated it scientifically, very scientifically. He might have recovered, or they might have cut his arm off. Some dear old soul of a grandmother, however, might have treated the sore by some "old woman's remedy" and healed it, but there would have been no "professional science" in such a proceeding, as her remedy would not be one recognized by the code!

The general's physicians excuse themselves, we are told, because the condition of the throat was hidden from sight. There are thousands of cases where disease is hidden from sight, where the symptoms are very obscure and conflicting. The physicians will treat every day's symptoms, but they do not cure, and finally the patient dies. Then they discover they have made a mistake! A horrible mistake! The other day a prominent merchant in a neighboring city was found dead in bed. A post mortem examination revealed the fact that one of his other vital organs was entirely decayed, and yet his physicians had been treating him for heart disease!

Some one has blundered!

For weeks the American public have been waiting the unwelcome tidings of General Grant's death. To-day, the general is up and around and riding out.

People get well often in spite of what their doctors say and do. Why? By will power? No. By faith? No.

They live because outside the medical profession and medical pretense there are effective remedial agencies in nature which, though "unrecognized" by the code, have supreme power over disease, and in thousands of cases win triumphs where the so called scientific treatment utterly fails.

A prominent ex-cabinet officer is to day on the very edge of the grave, suffering from an extreme disorder of the liver. His doctors know

they cannot cure him. They are simply making dying comfortable!

The agony of death in many cases is read by surrounding friends in screams of pain, in convulsions of nerve, in spasms of torture—the fixed eye, the chilly breath, the dreadful coughing, the bloody sweat—the supreme inflictions of pitiless diseases upon a helpless body,—indicate the limitations of professional skill."

Seven-tenths of the deaths of this country every year are from hepatic and renal disorders, over which physicians have so little power. They will give this, that and the other thing to make dying comfortable, but they know they cannot cure and yet they will not permit the use of remedies "unauthorized" by their code, whether they are allopathic or homeopathic. If the system, as is common at this time of the year, has no tone, and one has tired and depressed feelings, the doctor will tell you that the blood needs purifying, but he will not tell you what he knows to be true, that the blood is impure because the liver and kidneys are not performing their blood purifying functions.

The failure of the physicians in General Grant's case ought to have an eye-opening effect upon the public. It ought to see the futility of trusting entirely in a profession whose practice is so largely experimental. The test of merit is success, and when any agency has won a record proved by the testimony of prominent men and women in all ranks of society, it stands to reason that such a preparation is worthy of universal confidence. Who has not heard of it? Who has not used it? Who can gainsay the statement that it has wrought greater benefit for mankind than anything ever discovered inside the ranks of the medical profession? And yet many physicians who are bound hand and foot to their code will not allow nor will they prescribe the use of Warner's Safe Cure. Nevertheless, spite of their small-minded bigotry, it multiplies instances of its singular merit by thousands every day, rests satisfied with the record it has won, and challenges comparison with the record of the most reputable physician.

It is a terrible thing to lose our friends, especially if we find out *afterwards* that they might have been saved.

We are glad General Grant is getting well. He deserves to live, and in living he will emphasize the fact that physicians do not have a monopoly over disease; that "scientific medicine," so called, is not infallible; that all remedial agencies were not born with doctors and will not die with them.

A New Remedy for the Cabbage Worm

Charles H. Erwin, of Painted Post, N. Y., writes to Prof. C. V. Riley regarding a simple remedy for the cabbage worm which he accidentally hit upon. It is, to sum up an extended experience which he relates simply ice cold water, or water but a few degrees warmer than ice water, sprinkled upon the worms during the heat of the

day. Mr. Erwin chanced to find that such an application in the hot sun caused them to quickly let go their hold upon the leaves, curl up, roll to the ground and die, while the cabbages looked all the fresher for the application. If this should prove as successful with others as with Mr. Erwin, we have a remedy which for cheapness and simplicity is far superior to Pyrethrum, the most efficient remedy known at present. This remedy should be remembered by all and given a thorough trial.—*Ex.*

Advantages of the N. O. Exposition.

It is stated that between January 1st and March 31st of the present year over \$750,000 were added to the industrial capital of North Carolina, and the greater part of this sum is believed to be directly traceable to the State's excellent display at the New Orleans Exposition. Among the new enterprises established \$200,000 has been devoted to opening a rich copper mine in the western part of the State, and a company for the manufacture of commercial fertilizers from native rocks has been started. Machine shops, tobacco factories, lumber, flour and cotton mills, and a variety of less notable enterprises complete the list. Alluding to this matter the New Orleans Times-Democrat says as one of the results of the World' Exposition "there are to-day several million Americans from every part of the United States, and foreigners representing all corners of civilization, who are convinced that North Carolina, one of the chief and most progressive States of the new South, is a Commonwealth possessed of an imperial array of resources—agricultural, mineral, marine and industrial—such as few regions of like area can equal anywhere on the earth's surface."

Our Leading Dry Goods House.

In every large city there is a prominent house, in which the community have perfect confidence. All the shop-goers seem to be satisfied with the quality of goods purchased there, and naming the house is enough to insure to them fair dealings, excellent quality, polite attention, and only a fair margin of profit on the article sold

by them. In Baltimore we have as the leading house Hamilton Easter & Sons, where old and young, rich and poor will be treated with equal care, and find prices and goods to meet their desires and their purses.

HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN ASSOCIATION.

A joint meeting of the committee of the Holstein Breeders' Association of America and that of the Dutch Friesian Breeders' Association of America, was held at Genesee Hotel, Buffalo, April 16th. The object of the meeting was the consolidation of both organizations. The gentlemen present were: T. G. Yeomans, Walworth, N. Y.; Martin L. Sweet, Grand Rapids, Mich.; W. Brown Smith, Syracuse, N. Y.; F. C. Stevens, Attica, N. Y.; W. G. Powell, Springboro, Pa.; C.W.W. Horr, Wellington, O.; Thomas B. Wales, Iowa City, Iowa; E. R. Phillips, Bay City, Mich.; S. Hoxie, Whitestown, N. Y.; C. R. Payne, Hamilton, N. Y.; Cornelius Baldwin, Nelson, O.; Dr. F. W. Patterson, Locheam, Md.; H. Langworthy, West Edmeston, N. Y.; S. Burchard, Hamilton, N. Y.

Dr. F. W. Patterson, president of the Dutch Friesian Association, called the meeting to order and in a few well chosen remarks nominated as chairman W. Brown Smith. Mr. Smith was unanimously elected. Thomas B. Wales, Jr., and Cornelius Baldwin were chosen secretaries.

After the transaction of some preliminary business, the following are a portion of the resolutions adopted:

Resolved, That a new Association shall be formed, to be called the "Holstein-Friesian Association of America."

That the officers shall consist of one President, a first, second, third and fourth Vice President, one Secretary and Editor, and six Directors, and such other officers and directors as may be provided for by the by-laws of the association.

That the obtaining of the necessary charter and legislation shall be put into the hands of a committee of four, consisting of two gentlemen belonging to the Holstein association, and two belonging to the Dutch-Friesian association. The committee consist of T. G. Yeomans, Dr. F. W. Patterson, Thomas B. Wales, Jr. and S. Hoxie.

That the offspring of cattle registered in either of the present herd books shall be entitled to pedigree registration in the herd books of the Holstein-Friesian Association.

This meeting was attended by the leading and most active men of both organizations, and was conducted in perfect harmony, and the consolidation made to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. We were glad to see this uniting of the above associations, and believe it will be better for both.

Farmers and Low Prices.

We are glad to perceive numerous indications that our Maryland farmers are not discouraged by the prevalence of low prices. If prices are low the farms must be enriched and produce more abundantly. This is the true philosophy of life: meet difficulties and surmount them; grapple discouragements and they are conquered. One of the sure indications that our farmers are not discouraged is in the fact that our Fertilizing Houses in this city assure us that they are doing more business than last year. One prominent house informs us that their sales have been at least one-third more this spring than last. May we hear a corresponding encouragement from the farmers when the crops come in during the harvest season.

Another indication, which is a source of gratification to us, is the increased demand for agricultural publications, and especially a constant demand for our magazine, manifested by renewed subscriptions and many additional subscribers. We welcome every new name to the great brotherhood of the faithful, who have been with us during the years gone by.

Our Carpet House.

During the past month we have had some very pleasant dealing with the carpet house of McDowell & Co., on Baltimore, opposite Hanover Street. We have merely room to mention them this

month, but hope to give some particulars of their extensive business facilities next month.

Good Housekeeping.

We have received the first number of this new periodical, and to say that we are pleased with it expresses but a faint part of the gratification we have had in its perusal. It covers a ground in our Home literature that has long needed a specialist for its perfect treatment; and it covers it so well that nothing is needed to supplement its work. Our better half says while reading it, "good, better, best," and then "best" the remainder of the time. It seems hardly possible that the second number can equal this first one, in its variety of contents and its interest; if it does, and the future numbers follow suit, nothing can be desired further in its chosen department. We shall welcome each succeeding issue, and convey it with great pleasure to our family circle; for we see nothing but good as the influence from its pages. We hope it will meet with universal favor at the hands of the public. Published by Clark W. Bryan & Co., Holyoke, Mass. and 111 Broadway, N. Y.

It is stated that over 400 sailing vessels are engaged in carrying wheat to Europe from California, Oregon and Washington Territory.

Books, Catalogues, Etc. Received.

The first volume of "Stories From Many Sources," published by Dodd, Mead & Co. N. Y. is at hand. It contains five stories selected from the best printed in the English magazines. Fine binding, good paper, clean print and exceedingly pleasant reading. Price 75c. For sale in Baltimore by Cushings & Bailey.

The "Library Magazine" for May is a fine number; remarkable for the variety of its contents and the standing of the writers who are represented—John B. Alden, N. Y.

We have just received a copy of No 7 of "Ogilvie's Popular Readings"—price 30c.—containing seven stories. All are printed in large type, with handsome colored lithograph cover, also a handsome colored frontispiece.

"The Floral Cabinet."—The best testimony we can give to our appreciation of the Floral Cabinet, published at 22 Vesey Street, New York, is this: That in an office overflowing with papers and magazines from all parts of the country, we have missed it, and sent to New York for it.